



# THE COMMUNICATOR

Newsletter of Atascocita Presbyterian Church



## AN ODE TO OFFERINGS

Talk about a reverse offering. The children showed up to church on Sunday morning, February 18 and they all received a dollar. They did not give a dollar, they got a dollar. It was a very creative and interesting dollar, folded into the shape of a star by Charis Nees, who was leading the "Time With The Children." But the uniqueness of the dollar was not simply the shape into which it had been folded. The dollar, given to each child, was seed money for the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering. Each child was given a dollar to put into their fish-shaped offering bank and encouraged to keep adding to that piggy (fishy?) bank until Easter Sunday, when all the banks, with all the dollars and quarters and nickels and dimes and pennies will be collected. What a fun way to begin the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering.

We have had several fun offerings over the past few months, some of them spontaneous. Earth Care was meeting back in the summer. As part of our caring for the environment we practice recycling, even recycling of fluorescent light bulbs. Unfortunately, the place to recycle these bulbs is on the other side of town, and between driving back and forth it just seemed like more work than it was worth. Of course we could just recycle the bulbs right in our own area, but that cost money. We all sat for a minute or two, stuck in our dilemma of free recycling on the other side of town or "pay for" recycling here in the neighborhood. We got unstuck when a ten-dollar bill appeared on the table. One of the Earth Care members had thrown down the gauntlet. If all we needed was money to do the recycling at a place near us, well, that ten-dollar bill was a good way to start. Everyone agreed. Before you know it, there was more money donated than needed... and now Earth Care has a little balance of money for future needs.

How many butterflies does a church need? That question came up at a recent Christian Growth and Nurture meeting. We were preparing for our Butterfly Release on Easter morning. We have a small budget, and there was concern that the amount budgeted might not give us the number of butterflies needed to mark a celebration as wonderful as the resurrection. We all sat for a minute or two, stuck in our dilemma of how many bucks we could spare for the butterflies. We got unstuck when a ten-dollar bill appeared on the

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## What's inside the latest issue

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- Worship in March
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- Upcoming Events!
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- HAAM Update
- One Great Hour of Sharing
- Earth Care Corner
- Birthdays, Attendance Report, Stewardship Update, and Prayers

## Stay Connected!

Visit the [APC website](http://apchumble.org) (apchumble.org) for more information and service schedules.

Make sure you are subscribed to *The Communicator* newsletter and Narthex News email.

Check us out on Facebook!  
facebook.com/AtascocitaPresbyterianChurch

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table. Once again, someone had thrown down the gauntlet. As committee members responded, we even found a \$50 bill on the table. (Of course we gave that person some change!) Before you know it, there was enough money donated to assure us a bevy of butterflies bursting forth in beautiful glory on Easter morning.

I love the fact that you, the members of APC, have fun with offerings. You celebrate when children get a dollar to kick off One Great Hour of Sharing. You step up during committee meetings to throw some money on the table to help fund special projects. When cross bars are set up in the sanctuary you put on your football gear and help us reach the goal line for our Souper Bowl of Caring...which this year resulted in hundreds of pounds of food and \$628 in donations. You ate pancakes prepared by our youth and then gave more than \$600 in support of the various ministries our young people are involved in. And last summer you gave \$1,000 as seed money for our community garden.

So let me leave you with what I think is a pretty wonderful image as I conclude this article, which I have titled "An Ode to Offerings." On Super Bowl Sunday, when all the cans and all the cash had been collected, the youth, with the help of many willing adults, piled all the donations into the back of Chris Friedersdorf's van. After the van was completely loaded up, the youth and their leaders crowded into the back of the van for a picture. The smiles on their faces, and the sense of accomplishment they felt, it all made for a heartwarming picture. No wonder when the New Testament gives us an "Ode to Offerings" we hear, "It is more blessed to give than to receive", and also this gem, "The Lord loves a cheerful giver." Thanks APC family! Your cheerful giving makes a pastor's heart happy.

With the love of Christ,

*Wayne*



Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" But he was speaking of the temple of his body.  
John 2:19-22 NRSV

### Worship in March

**3/3 Third Sunday in Lent**

**"Jesus: Zeal for my Father's House"**

John 2:13-22

**3/10 Fourth Sunday in Lent**

**"Jesus: Salvation and snakes"**

Numbers 21:4-9

**3/17 Guest Preacher**

**Rev Barbara Retzloff**

**3/24 Palm Sunday**

**"What the donkey knew"**

John 12:12-16

**3/28 Maundy Thursday**

**Worship 7 pm**

**3/29 Good Friday (noon)**

**3/31 Easter**

**"The Price is right"**

Matthew 28:1-10

### CHURCH STAFF

Pastor.....Pastor Wayne Eberly

Office Coordinator.....Carroll Hebert

Director of Music.....Joe Weir

Pianist.....Carl Braden

Pastor Wayne is in the office Monday through Wednesday, 9 am until 2 pm.

Carroll Hebert is in the office Monday through Friday, 9 am until 2 pm.



sunday; march 10

## Children's Faith Formation Classes

**Children K - 5th grade.** Classes meet at 9:30 am in the orange classroom.

**Pre-school - 2-4 years old.** Classes meet at 9:30 am in the teal classroom.

**Nursery care will be open each week during FF and worship hours for children who haven't yet entered Kindergarten. Sundays 9:30-11:30 am in the nursery.**

Please feel free to contact Terri Thomson with any questions or concerns related to APC Children's Ministries by email (apcchildrenscommittee@apchumble.org).

## Youth Faith Formation

**Youth 6th - 12th grade.** Come and join our exciting new Sunday morning meeting time at 9:30 am.

We will be studying God's word, building friendships and faith, and exploring how we can reach out with God's love.

Contacts for the Youth program are Julie Eberly, Joe Breda, Joyce Olson, and Terri Thomson.

## Time Out for Men

**The second Wednesday of each month,** APC men are invited to join Pastor Wayne in a program that gives everyone a chance to have fellowship, share a meal, and grow together in faith. We look forward to our time together **Wednesday, March 13.**

Meet at 11:30 am in the fellowship hall to share a potluck lunch with Presbyterian Women who meet for their monthly Bible study. Then, at noon, the men's group will gather in classroom 102 to continue Pastor's Bible Study.

## Adult Faith Formation

**\*\*\*Doug's class, 9:15 am in the library.**

Discussion of *Messiah Jesus: Christology in His Day and Ours*, by Doug Kennard.



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**\*\*\*Sermon Scripture Study, 9:30 am in classroom 102/hybrid.**

Everyone is welcome for a discussion of Sunday's worship scripture.

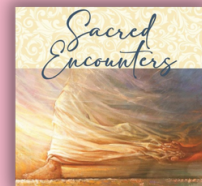
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**\*\*\*Christian Chat and Coffee, 9:30 am in classroom 104.**

Everyone is welcome for an easy hour of discussions and fellowship.

## Presbyterian Women Horizons Bible Study

The Bible Study meets **Wednesday, March 13** from 11:30 am until 1:00 pm, in the fellowship hall.

Share a potluck lunch at 11:30 am. We welcome the "Time Out for Men" group to join us before they break out for their own session.



PW will continue at noon in the Horizons series: *Sacred Encounters: The Power and Presence of Jesus in Luke-Acts*, by Olive Mahabir.

For more information, please contact Judi Anderson (jla.lpc55@gmail.com).



sunday; march 10

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Easter Week Services and Activities

*Journey to the Resurrection!*

*Join us for  
Worship @ Atascocita Presbyterian*

**Palm Sunday Service**

March 24 @ 10:30 am

**Maundy Thursday Service**

March 28 @ 7 pm

"I am the  
*resurrection*  
and the  
*life.*"  
JOHN 11:25

**Good Friday Prayer Service**  
March 29 @ Noon

**EASTER Service**

March 31 @ 10:30 am

*Children's Activities & Butterfly Release*  
9:30-10:15 am

## Sleep in Heavenly Peace Bed Delivery



**Saturday, March 2, 8:30 am** meet in the APC parking lot to load your truck and get your delivery route. Adult and teen volunteers are needed! Sign up on the website ([shpbeds.org/chapter/tx-houston-n](http://shpbeds.org/chapter/tx-houston-n)) or use this [link](#).

## Ancient Mariners

On **Friday, March 8**, Ancient Mariners will tour the Durham Bible Museum in Houston. Harris County precinct bus will depart APC parking lot at 9 am. Lunch is at Olive Garden near the museum. Sign up in the narthex.

For more information, please contact Linda Andrus ([harley3064@aol.com](mailto:harley3064@aol.com)).



## CLC Go Texan Activities



Yee Ha! It's Go Texan time in the Creative Learning Center. Starting **Wednesday, March 6 at 9 am**, students will participate in their annual Rodeo Parade on the APC grounds. Different classes participate on Thursday, March 7.

Dressed in their best "western" costumes and guiding their stick horses around the course, they finish at APC front doors. Moms and dads gather to enjoy songs and dances the students perform.

After the "show" students are directed to an area on the APC grounds for a petting zoo and pony rides.

Friends of CLC (APC family) are welcome to attend by simply coming to the APC parking lot and gathering with CLC parents.

## APC Needlers

Meet the second Tuesday each month. The next meeting is **March 12, 7-9 pm** at Cathy Fovargue's house, 19706 Highdale Ct, 77346

For those who knit (or want to learn), crochet, or sew, there are projects to do. Currently we are working on mariners' scarves, crochet/knit blankets for charity, and baptismal quilts.

For more information, please contact Karen Frye ([vkfrye62.kf@gmail.com](mailto:vkfrye62.kf@gmail.com)) or Rosemary Mumford ([rosesmum@aol.com](mailto:rosesmum@aol.com)).



### Wacky Wednesday

Kids are welcome to come **March 20 from 5 to 6:30 pm**. Stations are set up on the APC grounds for games, snacks, and a craft. RSVP to Cathy Gerald (281-852-4832).

### Seniors and Friends

Meet for lunch on the third Thursday of the month. Join us **March 21, 11:30 am** at Tin Roof BBQ, 18918 Town Center Blvd, 77346. For more information, please contact Bonnie Carr (bncrr1@gmail.com)

### Thursday Night Dinner March 21

We have a newly-formed kitchen committee that is doing a great job with maintaining the cleanliness and order of our kitchen, and they are also preparing some wonderful meals for us all to enjoy.

Next up on our culinary calendar is an all-church dinner, **March 21, 5:30 pm**. The menu features Ham, a Roasted Sweet Potato Medley, Salad, Rolls, and Mandarin Orange Cake!

The cost is \$8 for adults and \$4 for children (ages 2-12). Please RSVP so we know how many meals to prepare. A sign-up sheet is in the narthex or call the church office (281-852-8990).

Thanks to all who are serving on our Kitchen Committee!



### Yoga for all!

Meet Monday mornings at 9:30 in the fellowship hall. Bring your exercise mat.

### 2024 Men's Conference at Mo-Ranch

Please join George Williams and friends who will be attending this year's conference which will begin on Friday, May 3 and end on Sunday, May 5. The cost is \$425 per person which includes tuition, meals, and housing. **Please register by March 20, 2024.**

Men's Conference is a gathering of men for fellowship and spiritual renewal. Activities include keynote presentations, worship, song, workshops, relaxation, and recreation. Saturday afternoon optional free time includes recreational activities and sports. Saturday dinner is "not to be missed" BBQ!

The APC men traditionally stay in a Triplex which is comprised of two bedding areas, a family/dining room, and a full-sized kitchen. We have reserved Triplex 3 and 4 and have a hold on Triplex 1 in anticipation of an increase in the number of APC participants. Each evening, we enjoy games, libations, sitting outside by the fire pit, and viewing the Constellations. Also, several of us leave on Wednesday before the conference to play golf or explore the local sites on Thursday and Friday morning. There will be an extra cost for housing and meals.

**Fellow golfers/early arrivals.** This year MO is offering the opportunity to play in a scramble golf tournament. See below. I suggest we play in it on Friday and play the Buckhorn Golf Course on Thursday. Let me know. There is also an option for arriving early on Thursday.

#### Registration Options:

- Arriving before dinner on Thursday, your room, Thursday dinner, Friday breakfast and lunch, your round of golf and cart fees = \$200 per person
- Just playing golf (with cart fees and lunch) = \$85 per person

#### Would you rather skip the golf and arrive as an Early Bird at the ranch for a little relaxation?

- Arriving before dinner on Thursday, your room, Thursday dinner, and Friday breakfast and lunch = \$150

If you have questions, are interested in attending the conference, and want to play golf, **please contact George Williams (281-772-4706) before March 15, 2024.** Each individual is responsible for registering for the conference. Under lodging option, select Hotel/Premium Lodging. If contacted by a MO representative, tell them you are with the APC men and staying in the Triplex.

The **registration form** and more detailed information may be found at [moranch.org](http://moranch.org). Follow the link under Programs & Events.

### Empty Nesters

Meeting the last Tuesday of the month. The group will meet **March 26, 6 pm** at a restaurant to be determined. For more information, please contact Ellen Nipe (enipe@comcast.net).

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### Game Day for Grownups!



Gather for a potluck lunch and fellowship **Thursday, March 28, 11:30 am**, in the fellowship hall and stay for games of Mexican Train or Bingo.

For more information, please contact Terri Parmerlee (tmparmerlee@gmail.com).

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### Blessing of the Pets

Our pets are a part of our family. They have been entrusted to us by God for their care and love. We will lift them up to God on **Saturday, April 6, 2 pm** in the GATE area.

Everyone is invited to bring your pets for a special day of blessing. Sponsored by the Earth Care Committee, we are looking forward to a low key, relaxed day, with a chance to enjoy God's creatures and God's creation!

To ensure that everyone has a safe day, please keep your pet on a leash (unless it's a rabbit, in which case it should be in a crate).

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### Spring Outing to Washington-on-the-Brazos

Spring in Texas! **Saturday, April 13**. Load up your car and join us for a day to enjoy the beauty of spring. We will travel to Washington -on-the-Brazos for a leisurely ride and walk to enjoy the bluebonnets. We will meet at Washington-on-the-Brazos at 10:30 am. You are in charge of your own transportation, but the suggestion is to travel on 59 North, take FM 1314 west, FM 335 west, and FM 105 east, which will bring you to the visitors center at Washington-on-the-Brazos.

Following a trek on the Brazos Bluebonnet Walk (one to two mile walk, depending on how energetic you are), we will drive to Brenham for lunch at LJ's BBQ on West Main. Following a delicious repast you will be able to once again enjoy the wildflowers on your drive home.

If you have questions, contact Pastor Wayne (pastorwayne@apchumble.org).

### We Welcome New Members to the APC Family

What a blessing to receive the Reppucci and Buchanan families into the ever-growing APC family! After visiting APC for several weeks, both families decided this was the place for them to grow in the Lord and make new friends.

Meet David and Linda Reppucci along with their daughter Emily and son Max. Originally from Rhode Island and Massachusetts, they have made their way to Atascocita by way of Tennessee and Louisiana with David's work. Emily lives at home and Max attends Southern Methodist University.

Linda Buchanan was born in Minnesota and grew up in California. She is retired and enjoys reading and spending time outdoors with family and friends.

Jenny Buchanan joins alongside mom, Linda. She was born and raised in California and has worked as a flight attendant for 25 years. She enjoys travel, exercise, and home projects. Her "fur babies" are Annie, Chase, FeFe, Tiger, Big Boy, and Deussen.

### Greece and the Greek Isles In the Steps of Paul March 18 - 25, 2025

Pastor Wayne and Julie are inviting you to travel with them in the Footsteps of St Paul. The journey takes us to treasured spots in Greece such as Athens, Corinth, Philippi, and Thessalonica.

Included in the trip is a cruise which will allow us the wonderful opportunity to see the ancient ruins of Ephesus as well as the Island of Patmos, where John received the inspiration for the Book of Revelation.

Brochures are available in the narthex. The trip is open not only to APC members, but also to others who are interested in gaining a firsthand perspective on the the world in which Paul lived and traveled.

For more information, please contact Pastor Wayne (pastorwayne@apchumble.org).



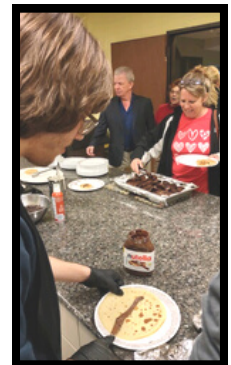
## Conclaves at Trinity Pines Conference Center Trinity Texas February 23-25

A great time was had by all: William Breda, William Nelson, Adrianna Burleigh, Eleanna Moses, and Ray Nelson. Accompanied by PYCC member, Joseph Breda. Adult sponsors Joe Breda, Gary Denmon, and Julie Eberly.

## Scenes from the Youth-led Pancake Supper Wednesday, February 14



What a crew!



Joseph Breda, Kiernan Dulaney, Ray Nelson, William Breda, Eleanna Moses



Customers happy to partake of these luscious cakes! Thanks to these folks: Claudia Nelson, Joseph, Ray, Kiernan, William, Susan Sheridan, Julie Eberly, William Nelson, Pastor Wayne



### Help and Hope in Action:

HAAM was established in February, 1990 when clergy from several churches wanted a central focal point for assisting those in need. APC was one of those churches. The goal was to streamline community outreach efforts and prevent duplication of social services. Over the past 34 years, HAAM has assisted thousands of individuals and families to meet their basic needs and improve their lives. HAAM's work plays an essential role in promoting the health and safety of our local communities, and exemplifies the spirit of love that inspired its creation decades ago.

### Outreach Opportunities for groups or individuals

#### Hygiene Packs - place items in a gallon-size ziplock storage bag:

- 1 full-size bar soap
- 1 tube toothpaste
- 2 toothbrushes
- 1 bottle shampoo
- 1 bottle hair conditioner
- 1 stick of deodorant

#### HAAM Snack Packs - purchase small sizes of individual wrapped food items.

##### One of each item is put in a gallon-size ziplock bag:

- miniature box of cereal
- pkg instant oatmeal
- nuts
- bottle water
- whole-grain crackers
- animal cracker
- pretzels
- granola bar
- raisins

Individuals should place the donated items in the HAAM collection box in the narthex. Groups should call me so I can pick up the bags and deliver to HAAM. Thanks for your continued support of HAAM  
George Williams (281-772-4706)

### 2023 Season of Sharing Recap

Food was provided to over 3,500 individuals and over 12,600 toys were given to over 3,000 children!

### Souper Bowl of Caring Results

Thank you to the APC youth group and adult sponsors for presenting this great mission to the APC family. We had a great response of a van full of food and an offering of \$628!







Around the world, there are millions of people who lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) - Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People - all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

Received during the season of Lent (February 14 - March 31), each gift to OGHS helps to improve the lives of people and bring about healing, food for the hungry, and rest for the weary. The Offering provides us a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need. **In fact, OGHS is the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world.**

Please refer to the colorful brochure in the pew pocket. A special donation envelope is also provided there for your convenience. If writing a personal check, please write "special offering" in the memo line. To make an online donation, please go to the APC website ([apchumble.org](http://apchumble.org)), click on "Give Now," and use the special offerings option.

## "The Climate Optimist"

Earth Care Corner

"Did you know that creative minds experience higher levels of climate optimism? As hopelessness grows in the face of a widespread understanding of the climate crisis, the need for optimism is ever more important. In a recent global research study led by BEworks, 2290 respondents from various countries show different levels of climate hope, depending on country and background. But the most important finding: creativity plays an important role. The results show creativity to be critical. Those who are more creative are significantly more optimistic generally and more optimistic about our capacity to solve the climate crisis specifically. A creative mindset is also associated with higher motivation to address the climate crisis, higher confidence they can contribute to climate initiatives, and greater effort put into being sustainable. Further, more creative individuals are higher in a range of dispositions important to creating solutions—future-oriented thinking, open-mindedness, perseverance, and opportunity spotting. Together, these results strongly suggest that a creative mindset is key to taking on the climate challenge. The sooner we recognize that our opportunity to spark a better, smarter, and more sustainable world lies everywhere we look, we get to tap into our unique potential and bring forth that activation from within. Here's the beauty of the future: we get to decide right now what kind of future we want to pull closer. Because, as has always been true – we build our tomorrow today."

For APC, we (individually and as a community) have opportunities to be EarthCare Optimists. For 2024 may we together be creative looking for Earth Care ideas that we can begin, continue, and support.

(edited)  
Ann Therese Gennari

**APC is a certified Earth Care  
Congregation of the PC(USA).**





- 3/1 Lorrie Pritchett
- 3/4 Gwen Poirier
- 3/6 Karen Frye
- 3/6 Betsy Gould
- 3/6 Scott Mayer
- 3/7 Laura Bennett
- 3/8 Ron Morrison
- 3/9 Forrest Craig
- 3/9 Carol Hedgepath
- 3/10 Terri Parmerlee
- 3/13 Elaine Morrison
- 3/13 Melissa Williams
- 3/14 Henry Kepeden
- 3/15 Russ Nipe
- 3/16 Ellen Taylor
- 3/17 Minerva Renteria
- 3/20 Daryl Munoz
- 3/21 Steve Hlavaty
- 3/22 Johnathan Martin
- 3/24 Lee Merrick
- 3/26 Tom Hedgepath
- 3/27 Bonnie Carr
- 3/28 Pete Nazarko

## Prayers, Concerns, & Condolences

We lift prayers to the Lord for friends and family:

- Peace and safety for the people of Ukraine, Sudan, and in other parts of the world where there is war.
- Praying for peace in Israel and Palestine.
- Victims, families, and communities affected by violence.
- People of Equador as they deal with turmoil and unrest right now.
- Those impacted by recent natural disasters and weather extremes.
- Victims and families caught in recent gun violence.
- William Fitzpatrick, Frank and Barb's son, emotional and physical recovery from pulmonary embolism condition.
- Mason Courville, Janice McCormick's 18 yr-old grandson, needs a heart transplant.
- Peace and safety for Adam Clark and all who are serving in the military away from home.
- Grandkids of Ron and Cathy Fovargue in military service overseas.
- Pat Litzinger recovering from surgery.
- Leah Barnes recovering from surgery.
- Kathy Gava, health concerns.
- George Williams recovery from surgery.
- Greg Strube, friend of Kathleen McPherson, healing after emergency heart surgery.
- Judi Anderson for health concerns.
- Ginny Nash, friend of Julie Eberly, recovery from surgery.
- Praise and thanksgiving for the birth of Cohen Allen Chasteen, second great-grandson of Tom and Carol Hedgepath.
- Easton, a local second grader in need of a pacemaker and dealing with complications.
- Ongoing concerns: Sine McCarty, Garland McCarthy, Betsy Gould, Anne Wallace, Michael Burgos, Ann Owen, Connie Brown.

**Please email prayer requests to the church office (apceapchumble.org).**

For pastoral care emergencies, please contact your deacon or elder for March, Ron Powell (580-467-3095)

2024 Worship Attendance and Offering Summary					
Date	In Person	BoxCast Live	Facebook Live	Total Viewers	Offering Total
4-Feb	95	12	42	149	\$5,094
11-Feb	104	24	76	204	\$13,122
18-Feb	124	9	75	208	\$2,550
25-Feb	103	9	47	159	\$1,445
February End of Month Credit Card Receipts					
Total Offerings for Year-to-date					\$46,856
Budgeted Offerings for Year-to-date					\$42,808



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